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## BOOK DEPARTMENT.

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### NOTES.

THE FOURTH ISSUE of the "Manual of American Water-Works"\* reflects plainly the development which has been going on in this country in the direction of improved municipal conditions. According to the special reports collected for this manual, there were over three thousand cities and towns in the United States and Canada last year having waterworks. Of these, something over one-half in the United States and about three-fourths in Canada were owned by the municipalities in which they were situated. In addition to the special information in regard to the capacity, cost and business organization of the different plants covered by the report, the manual contains much information of the greatest value to students of social and economic science. A table is given showing that since 1895, while only twenty waterworks have passed from the ownership of the public into private hands, as many as two hundred plants have become public property. Further information is given in regard to the legal complications which have arisen between private waterworks companies and the cities in which they were located. The different systems of meters employed are described, as are also the methods adopted of dividing the expense of extending the waterworks plant, tapping main drains, etc., between those directly or indirectly interested. The volume gives indications of having been carefully edited, and will prove very helpful to the municipal reformer who is anxious to turn to exact information in regard to this important branch of municipal activity.

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IN HIS STUDY of "*La France d'après les Cahiers de 1789*,"† M. Champion gives us an excellent statement of French conditions before the Revolution. He believes that the proper place to search for knowledge of these conditions is in the complaints and grievances sent to the king by his people in 1789, and is therefore a

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\* *Manual of American Water-Works for 1897*. Edited by M. N. BAKER. Pp. 626. Price, \$3.00. New York: Engineering News Publishing Co., 1897.

† *La France d'après les cahiers de 1789*. Par E. CHAMPION. Pp. 257. Price, 3.50 fr. Paris: Colin et Cie, 1897.

heartly believer in the work of French students who are seeking to make the collection of *Cahiers* more nearly complete.

The author has evidently devoted much time to the study of such of these documents as are available and the results of his work are valuable. In the volume before us he tries to sum up the results in chapters on "the provinces," the three orders, "the army and navy," "the church," "the obstacles to national unity," and such other subjects as are especially important. In all his work we find frequent references to his sources of information and at its close there is an index the more valuable in that it is usually omitted by French writers.

The work makes an excellent companion volume to M. Boition's "*Etat de la France en 1789*," but the reader must never forget that the *Cahiers* are above all a summary of complaints and grievances rather than a fair statement of the bright as well as the dark side of life at that period. It would seem that even the author forgets this when he attempts to describe "*La douceur de vivre sous Louis XVI*," for the chapter would rather justify the title "*aigreur*" than that given to it. The volume, however, is a valuable summary of the *Cahiers*.

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M. GUSTAVE LE BON, in his little book entitled "Psychology of Crowds,"\* has succeeded so well in delineating the leading general characteristics of the action of a crowd that those who are at present philosophizing about the lynchings that take place in the broad daylight of Ohio civilization would do well to read it. He treats of heterogeneous crowds, such as those which collect on the streets of a city which he styles as "nondescript," and juries, parliamentary bodies, etc., which are "*non anonymes*;" and then of homogeneous crowds comprising first, sects, political and religious; second, castes, military, clerical, workingmen; third, classes, such as the *bourgeoise*, peasants, etc. With this classification the author has examined and studied patiently the phenomena manifested by each. The account is at all times interesting and the results are in part at least instructive. The intellectual content of the thought which prompts the action of a crowd is almost always inferior to the intellectual ability of many persons and sometimes even of a majority of those who compose the crowd. This is explained by one of the author's fundamental propositions which is that it is always the unconscious elements which dominate a crowd; that there is never premeditation in its acts, but always a yielding to the

\* *Psychologie des foules*. Par GUSTAVE LE BON. Pp. vii, 200. Price, 2.50 fr. Paris: Felix Alcan, 1896.

influence of imagery, to suggestions bordering on the marvelous, to the force of the commonest unconscious responses to certain general stimuli. Hence, crowds exhibit race traits strongly and are always weak in personality and a sense of responsibility. In a study of this kind there is great danger of sinking to the level of platitudes and meaningless generalizations. This cannot be charged however against M. Le Bon. Some of his generalizations have too much of the particular, derived from observation of French crowds which are in many ways peculiar. On the basis of a piece of work of this kind it would be interesting to have a more specialized scientific study of the phenomena exhibited at some of our southern or western lynchings, or by such organizations as Coxey's army. America might furnish considerable material along this line which has not as yet been treated on any higher level than that of sensational journalistic correspondence.

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MESSRS. D. APPLETON & CO. have brought out a new edition of Lester F. Ward's "Dynamic Sociology"\* in two volumes. It is a reprint of the original edition which appeared in 1883, with a new preface in which Mr. Ward gives an account of the history of the book and of the progress made in the public interest in its subject and a lengthy statement concerning the treatment of the book in Russia where a translation, of which one volume was printed, was confiscated by the government. Mr. Ward has been one of the most active writers in this country to promote an interest in sociology and to encourage its study along far-reaching lines and his volumes dealing professedly with only a part of sociological theory will always possess a peculiar interest to the American reader, both because of their historical position and because of their content.

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IN HIS "Recent Centralizing Tendencies in State Educational Administration"† Dr. Webster has combined several articles which appeared in the *Educational Review* and has formed a study first, of the old "district system" of school administration and of its attendant evils; and, second, of the present tendency toward a more

\* *Dynamic Sociology*; or, Applied Social Science as based upon statical sociology and the less complex sciences. By LESTER F. WARD. Two vols. Second edition. Pp. xxix, 706; vii, 690. Price, \$4.00. New York: D. Appleton & Co., 1897.

† *Recent Centralizing Tendencies in State Educational Administration*. By WILLIAM CLARENCE WEBSTER, Ph. D. Columbia University Studies in History, Economics, and Public Law. Vol. viii, No. 2. Pp. 82. Price, 75 cents. New York: The Macmillan Co., 1897.

centralized organization in this field of state activity. Basing his conclusions upon the later reports of the superintendents in the New England and Middle States, as well as on the reports of the United States Commissioner of Education, Dr. Webster finds that the "district system" caused an extreme subdivision of each state into minute but almost independent administrative areas and resulted, in the following important evils: extravagance, narrow provincialism, large number of officials and hence increased elections and electioneering, glaring and unjust inequalities of school taxation and school privileges, and administrative anarchy, *i. e.*, the lack of a harmonious school policy. This formidable arraignment of the old system, it must be admitted, is for the most part a just one. Nevertheless, one cannot but wish that the author had tempered justice with mercy in his condemnation. Certainly it should be remembered that, as a prominent Frenchman has recently said, the older states of the American Union grew from the periphery to the centre and not the converse, *i. e.*, they developed mainly on the basis of the local settlements and towns, and their administrative organization could not but reflect this fact. From this standpoint, then, the school district represents simply a natural phase of administrative development. It might also be said that the author discusses only the administrative side of the subject and seems to care but little for the probable influence which would have been exerted by a centralized organization on the political training and activity of the citizen. The sketch of the new methods of organization and of their relations to the courses of study, text-book supply, compulsory attendance, etc., is most complete and satisfactory.

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"THE RAILWAY QUESTION IN CANADA"\* is discussed in an instructive way in a pamphlet by Mr. J. S. Willison. The Canadian government has to deal with the same problems of railway regulation that are found in the United States, though the United States and the various states have made more progress than Canada in their treatment. A part of the pamphlet is concerned with a discussion of the Iowa law regulating railroads. This part of Mr. Willison's study is only a résumé of Dr. Dixon's book on "State Railroad Control in Iowa." Mr. Willison gives his unqualified approval to the mandatory type of railroad commission without, however, referring to the working of the advisory commissions of Massachusetts and other states.

\* *The Railway Question in Canada*, with an Examination of the Railway Law of Iowa. By J. S. WILLISON. Pp. 73. Published by the Author, Toronto, 1897.

IN COMMENTING UPON the report of Messrs. Wines and Koren on "The Liquor Problem in its Legislative Aspects,"\* the sub-committee of the committee of fifty remarks:

"It cannot be positively affirmed that any one kind of liquor legislation has been more successful than another in promoting real temperance." This negative dictum indicates that the sub-committee are not inclined to take too seriously the result of the investigations made by their agents. For if Dr. Wines and Mr. Koren are not ready to pronounce unequivocally in favor of any specific plan, they are at no pains to conceal their impression as to the relative degrees in which the various systems which they study have failed. The one which most distinctly merits contempt, and against which they are determined at all hazards to make out a damaging case, is prohibition. Less unsuccessful but still productive of serious evils is the high license system. The moderately restrictive system in vogue in Massachusetts before the enactment of the local option law is credited with having outlawed the saloon in a far greater number of towns than were to be found in Maine, under partially enforced prohibition. In Ohio where the liquor traffic is not outlawed at all but simply taxed, there are townships in which there are no saloons "there being simply no demand in them for liquor," and others in which local prohibition exists by law—altogether about one-fourth of the townships in the state. This plan is not altogether a bad one. The South Carolina dispensary system finally, "has closed the saloons, and nearly suppressed the illicit traffic." The writer evidently has no sympathy with the "political opponents of the dispensary authorities" who "deny that aught of good has been accomplished" or with the prohibitionists, who "will frequently not even admit that drunkenness has been reduced." It is only in this chapter that Mr. Koren exhibits any enthusiastic interest in his subject, though he praises with discrimination and detects several flaws in the system, the most important being the fact that the element of private profits has not really been eliminated as in the more famous Gothenberg plan.

The fact is that this first fruit of the work of the remarkably respectable and able committee is a disappointment, betraying a bias so pronounced and so utterly unscientific as to throw suspicion upon their ability to choose discreet and competent agents if not upon the value of their own deductions. No one can read the chapter

\**The Liquor Problem in its Legislative Aspects.* By FREDERIC H. WINES and JOHN KOREN. An investigation made under the direction of Charles W. Eliot, Seth Low and James C. Carter, Sub-committee of the Committee of Fifty to Investigate the Liquor Problem. Pp. vi, 342. Price, \$1.25. Boston and New York: Houghton, Mifflin & Co.. 1897.

on "Prohibition in Maine and its Results" without discovering the *ex parte* character of the material produced. Sentences might be quoted from almost any page to show that the agent reports as an advocate and not as a scientific student.

It is all the more necessary to call attention to the special shortcomings of this work because they are found just where the committee itself and those who have been interested in its investigation have expected the most conspicuous success. Liberal financial support and unbounded public confidence have been bestowed upon the committee. It has had an unprecedented amount of co-operation from public and private bodies and much private voluntary assistance. Gentlemen of high scientific standing have given their names to the enterprise and those who were employed to do the actual work have made constant profession of their impartiality and scientific method. The present book is only a first installment of the results of the inquiry, and deals with the legislative aspects of the problem. It contains much interesting matter and in spite of the evidences of personal bias it will probably stand as the beginning of our scientific work in this field. The chapters are of unequal merit, those on the "South Carolina Dispensary System" and on the "History of Prohibition in Iowa" ranking first in general interest. It is earnestly to be hoped that the forthcoming volume on the relations of intemperance to pauperism will not become a mere argument in behalf of the thesis that intemperance has had little or nothing to do with destitution. In such an investigation one does not expect traces of sympathy with temperance reformers but equally out of place are indications of anxiety to make out a case against them.

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#### REVIEWS.

*Glasgow, its Municipal Organization and Administration.* By Sir JAMES BELL, Bart., and JAMES PATON, F. L. S. Pp. 426. Price, \$3.00. Glasgow: James MacLehose & Sons, 1896.

The purpose of this volume, as expressed by the Lord Provost in the prefatory note, "is to present. . . a comprehensive view the various means through and by which the complex work of a great corporation is carried on, and the intimate relation in which these and their result stand to the health, happiness and prosperity of the citizens." The details of municipal organization are carefully examined, and the work of each municipal department is described with a clearness and accuracy which makes this volume a model for monographic studies of a similar nature. It is only on